

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1814 (Alanis) – As Amended March 25, 2026

Policy Committee: Public Safety

Vote: 9 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill requires a peace officer of a rank of supervisor or below who is assigned primarily to traffic enforcement to complete a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)-approved standard field sobriety testing course of a minimum of 16 hours within one year of the assignment.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Excludes from the requirement officers who enforce traffic laws only as an ancillary function of a general patrol assignment.
- 2) Requires an officer who completed the required training, left law enforcement, and returns to a traffic enforcement assignment after more than two years away to complete one of several POST-certified CHP or local courses — including the standardized field sobriety test (FST) course, NHTSA-approved FST refresher, drug recognition expert (DRE) classroom or recertification course, or Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) course — or another POST-certified, CPT-eligible course relating to the detection and apprehension of impaired drivers, within one year of the new assignment.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Potentially reimbursable state-mandated local program costs (General Fund), unknown but likely in the low millions of dollars one-time and minor ongoing, for local law enforcement agencies to send traffic enforcement officers through the 16-hour training course and to backfill patrol and investigative coverage while officers are in training. Actual reimbursement is contingent on Commission on State Mandates determination. The magnitude cannot be estimated with precision because neither POST nor the state otherwise tracks the number of peace officers assigned primarily to traffic enforcement.
- 2) Unknown, but potentially significant, cost pressures on the Peace Officers' Training Fund (POTF) (special fund) and General Fund. Agencies may claim reimbursement from the Peace Officers' Training Fund (POTF) only for POST-certified courses; to the extent agencies select a POST-certified option — such as CHP's existing NHTSA-aligned FST course — those reimbursement claims will place pressure on POTF. POTF is a special fund that has faced structural revenue shortfalls for over a decade as penalty assessment collections have declined — a decline driven in part by the same drop in DUI arrests and convictions cited by the policy committee — and has previously required General Fund backfill and reductions to

local assistance to remain solvent. Adding a new reimbursable training obligation to this fund would compound existing pressure on an already strained revenue base.

- 3) Unknown, but potentially significant, costs to state law enforcement agencies (General Fund, various special funds) — including CHP, DOJ, State Parks, and others employing peace officers assigned primarily to traffic enforcement — to complete the required training and backfill coverage.

The Legislative Analyst's Office recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year beginning in the 2027-28 fiscal year.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

As a former law enforcement officer, I've seen firsthand how dangerous impaired driving can be for our communities. With DUI incidents continuing to impact families across California, it's critical that every peace officer is properly trained to recognize and stop impaired drivers. Right now, that training isn't consistent across the state. This bill makes sure all officers get the same clear, reliable training so we can keep our roads safer for everyone.

- 2) **Background.** The bill draws on a 2021 recommendation from the CHP-convened impaired driving task force established under SB 94 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 27, Statutes of 2017). That task force recommended that law enforcement personnel assigned to traffic enforcement complete ARIDE training within one year of assignment, with continuing education every two years on impaired driving. This bill applies a similar framework to the NHTSA-aligned 16-hour standardized FST course that CHP currently offers. POST has advised the committee that, contrary to assertions that DUI training varies across agencies, every peace officer in California receives the same baseline academy training. Relevant instruction spans multiple learning domains — including LD 12 (Controlled Substances), which covers major drug categories and symptomology, and LD 28 (Traffic Enforcement), which covers standardized field sobriety testing. This bill would add a post-academy training requirement on top of the existing standardized academy curriculum for officers in specified assignments. The bill's initial 16-hour training requirement in subdivision (a) references only "NHTSA-approved" courses, without requiring POST certification, while every course option available to returning officers under subdivision (b) must be POST-certified.

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